AP US History

Chapter 24 Questions

1. What were the causes and details of the industrial boom of the 1920s?

The causes were due to America’s history and the details of the boom were positive. One of the major causes was that America was the only true industrial power in the world at this point, in the aftermath of WWI, European industry will not recover for a long time. Another reason was that America had many new technologies that supersede other nations’ technologies. One more cause was that they had effective producing techniques such as the assembly line. Finally, the last cause would be that industries were reliant on other industries so that a never ending chain could/have start. During the industrial boom, new technology was created such as the radio, airplanes, early computers, etc. New organizations of economy had started, such as trade associations and an administrative system. Labor had changed, working conditions had improved for workers, America adopted a “welfare-capitalism”, but workers still had little say in what they wanted. Women had “pink-collar” jobs such as secretaries and salesclerks. Farming had also changed; machines were used instead of manually harvesting the crops.

1. What were the reasons for the heightened xenophobia and racial unrest in the 1920s?

The reasons for the extra fear and racism were prohibition, the Ku-Klux-Klan, and the social differences. Prohibition was actually a cause for crime because since alcohol was illegal, that and the fact that people still wanted to drink, there was the form of black markets, with it were organized crime to protect their products. The KKK was a very violent association, with hate towards immigrants and blacks, their attacks on those people had spread fear because they had terrorized that part of society, threatened their families, and even used violence such as lynching. Religion and science had gone at it with each other, the South had disallowed the teachings of science in their school curriculum, but the North had welcomed the teachings because it would create better industries.

1. Describe the outcomes of the presidential elections of 1924 and 1928, and the political legacies of Harding and Coolidge.

The elections of 1924 and 1928 were disappointing losses for the Democratic Party; the legacies of Harding and Coolidge were passive. The Democrats had lost the elections because their campaigns for prohibition and the end of the KKK were unsuccessful, for the first time, they did not have the full support of the South, and that their new candidate Al Smith could not unite the South. Harding’s presidency was full of scandals and that he and his successor, Coolidge were passive in their presidency and were often seen at leisure; they liked to go fishing…Passive presidency could mean that presidents hadn’t done much for America, these two men were conservatives. They did not fix racial problems and did not fix corruption. In the election of 1928, Herbert Hoover was elected as the next president, as a Republican, he takes office seven months before the crash of the stock market. Hoover was a commerce secretary, he was involved in economic deals, so that he may have been a good president to try and get America through the Great Depression. He was attached to the lez affaire capitalism than welfare capitalism. He believed there should be little intervention in American economy.